

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

Note: The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces the official unemployment statistics. The figures contained in this publication are different from the ABS unemployment figures as the ABS and the Department Social Services (DSS) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

This publication can be found on the Department of Social Services website at [DSS - Labour Market and Related Payments Publication](http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp) (<http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp>).

July 2018

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Introduction

This publication presents statistical information on a monthly basis for the various types of labour market payments delivered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of the Department of Social Services (DSS). This publication was produced previously by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

This publication covers Newstart (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) in some detail, and to a lesser extent, Partner Allowance (PA), Widow Allowance (WA), Youth Allowance (Full Time Student)(YA(FTS)) and Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) (YA(a)).

Table 1 provides information on the total number of NSA and YA recipients. The YA population is broken down into YA(o), YA(FTS) and YA(Australian Apprentices) categories. The total numbers of PA and WA recipients are also provided in this table.

Tables 2 and 3 show the derivation of the NSA and YA(o) job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the ‘Comparability of data’ section of the Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers.

Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker population.

When using time series figures, it is important to note that changes have occurred over time to the conditions of eligibility for different payments. Details of these changes are provided in the Explanatory Notes.

All media inquiries should be directed to the DSS Media Team at media@dss.gov.au. For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 26 September 2018.

Statistical Highlights – July 2018

Between July 2017 and July 2018

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 4.3 per cent** overall from 864 982 to 827 804.

- NSA recipients decreased 3.6 per cent from 765 878 to 738 325.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 9.7 per cent from 99 104 to 89 479.

The number of job seekers **decreased 5.6 per cent** overall from 511 328 to 482 444.

- NSA job seekers decreased 4.5 per cent from 440 531 to 420 519.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 12.5 per cent from 70 797 to 61 925.

Long-term job seekers decreased 1.8 per cent from 344 446 to 338 105.

Short-term job seekers decreased 13.5 per cent from 166 882 to 144 339.

For comparisons between DSS unemployment labour market payment numbers and ABS labour force unemployment statistics, see Appendix.

Figure 1: Line Graph – Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) time series

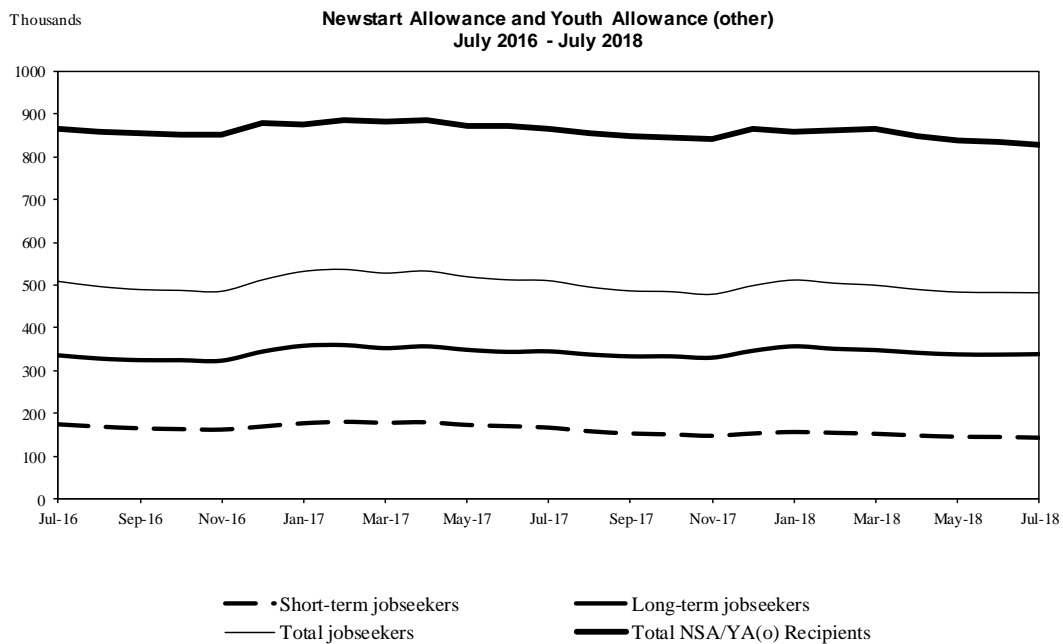


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
July 2016	555,399	765,756	98,389	210,161	4,152	3,863	18,067
August 2016	553,958	762,134	95,061	223,367	4,050	3,732	17,724
September 2016	554,177	760,972	93,693	222,127	4,014	3,590	17,437
October 2016	552,913	758,328	92,059	220,497	3,889	3,470	17,193
November 2016	555,286	760,719	92,182	196,018	3,658	3,386	16,994
December 2016	567,163	775,022	103,051	159,729	3,467	3,280	16,732
January 2017	564,484	774,122	99,888	157,268	3,273	3,193	16,524
February 2017	568,286	781,330	103,380	168,589	3,289	3,084	16,292
March 2017	567,955	780,655	102,013	191,358	3,392	2,919	15,912
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
August 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
September 2017	568,343	757,454	92,465	214,389	3,327	2,482	14,572
October 2017	568,257	754,939	90,015	212,211	3,091	2,464	14,624
November 2017	568,809	753,508	87,972	186,446	2,872	2,456	14,722
December 2017	580,426	766,998	97,115	151,426	2,637	2,445	14,803
January 2018	577,076	763,677	93,958	148,321	2,425	2,422	14,778
February 2018	578,876	766,603	95,597	158,226	2,321	2,349	14,489
March 2018	581,699	769,155	94,627	175,407	2,240	2,218	13,891
April 2018	573,335	755,923	92,134	180,907	2,413	2,142	13,573
May 2018	568,160	747,327	90,193	189,067	2,555	2,071	13,209
June 2018	568,133	745,902	90,286	192,045	2,525	1,985	12,907
July 2018	562,918	738,325	89,479	185,267	2,563	1,909	12,554
Variation June 2018 - July 2018							
Number	-5,215	-7,577	-807	-6,778	38	-76	-353
Per cent	-0.9	-1.0	-0.9	-3.5	1.5	-3.8	-2.7

Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.

Table 2 - Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population

Newstart Allowance	July 2018 Persons	July 2018 Males	July 2018 Females	June 2018	Variation June - July Number	Variation June - July per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	175,407	106,693	68,714	177,769	-2,362	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	9,519	5,062	4,457	9,101	418	4.6
Received a payment	165,888	101,631	64,257	168,668	-2,780	-1.6
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	5,770	1,506	4,264	5,967	-197	-3.3
Other activities without job search (c)	7,056	3,860	3,196	7,506	-450	-6.0
Incapacitated (d)	23,206	13,406	9,800	23,286	-80	-0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	11,117	6,233	4,884	11,345	-228	-2.0
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	118,739	76,626	42,113	120,564	-1,825	-1.5
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	26,345	15,182	11,163	25,891	454	1.8
Long Term Newstart Allowees	562,918	261,855	301,063	568,133	-5,215	-0.9
Did not receive a payment (a)	20,789	8,370	12,419	20,723	66	0.3
Received a payment	542,129	253,485	288,644	547,410	-5,281	-1.0
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	61,324	15,123	46,201	62,422	-1,098	-1.8
Other activities without job search (c)	64,592	31,377	33,215	66,669	-2,077	-3.1
Incapacitated (d)	63,466	30,521	32,945	64,599	-1,133	-1.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	50,967	23,031	27,936	53,282	-2,315	-4.3
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	301,780	153,433	148,347	300,438	1,342	0.4
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	217,531	107,169	110,362	219,993	-2,462	-1.1
All Newstart Allowees	738,325	368,548	369,777	745,902	-7,577	-1.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	30,308	13,432	16,876	29,824	484	1.6
Received a payment	708,017	355,116	352,901	716,078	-8,061	-1.1
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	67,094	16,629	50,465	68,389	-1,295	-1.9
Other activities without job search (c)	71,648	35,237	36,411	74,175	-2,527	-3.4
Incapacitated (d)	86,672	43,927	42,745	87,885	-1,213	-1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	62,084	29,264	32,820	64,627	-2,543	-3.9
All NSA job seekers (f)	420,519	230,059	190,460	421,002	-483	-0.1
All NSA training/education (g)	243,876	122,351	121,525	245,884	-2,008	-0.8

(a) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

(b) Allowees who are not required to seek work because they are undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.

(c) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(e) Includes allowees who are known not to have participation requirements and allowees participating in Disability Management Services.

(f) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(g) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

– Long-term allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.

Table 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population

Youth Allowance (other)	July 2018 Persons	July 2018 Males	July 2018 Females	June 2018	Variation June - July Number	Variation June - July per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	39,349	20,954	18,395	39,228	121	0.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,304	588	716	1,153	151	13.1
Received a payment	38,045	20,366	17,679	38,075	-30	-0.1
Other activities without job search (b)	9,309	5,228	4,081	9,334	-25	-0.3
Incapacitated (c)	1,742	828	914	1,777	-35	-2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,394	685	709	1,479	-85	-5.7
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	25,600	13,625	11,975	25,485	115	0.5
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	13,122	7,022	6,100	12,917	205	1.6
Long Term Youth Allowees	50,130	24,220	25,910	51,058	-928	-1.8
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,701	665	1,036	1,605	96	6.0
Received a payment	48,429	23,555	24,874	49,453	-1,024	-2.1
Other activities without job search (b)	7,364	3,812	3,552	7,707	-343	-4.5
Incapacitated (c)	2,602	1,093	1,509	2,742	-140	-5.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,138	873	1,265	2,378	-240	-10.1
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	36,325	17,777	18,548	36,626	-301	-0.8
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	23,810	11,654	12,156	24,884	-1,074	-4.3
All Youth Allowees	89,479	45,174	44,305	90,286	-807	-0.9
Did not receive a payment (a)	3,005	1,253	1,752	2,758	247	9.0
Received a payment	86,474	43,921	42,553	87,528	-1,054	-1.2
Other activities without job search (b)	16,673	9,040	7,633	17,041	-368	-2.2
Incapacitated (c)	4,344	1,921	2,423	4,519	-175	-3.9
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,532	1,558	1,974	3,857	-325	-8.4
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	61,925	31,402	30,523	62,111	-186	-0.3
All YA (other) training/education (f)	36,932	18,676	18,256	37,801	-869	-2.3

(a) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

(b) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(d) Includes allowees who are known not to have participation requirements and allowees participating in Disability Management Services.

(e) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(f) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

– Long-term allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.

**Table 4 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
Time Series**

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
July 2016	174,234	335,579	509,813
August 2016	169,184	328,317	497,501
September 2016	165,330	324,731	490,061
October 2016	163,550	324,613	488,163
November 2016	162,460	323,423	485,883
December 2016	169,305	343,710	513,015
January 2017	176,480	356,794	533,274
February 2017	179,788	358,438	538,226
March 2017	177,714	351,627	529,341
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
August 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
September 2017	153,749	333,186	486,935
October 2017	151,799	333,251	485,050
November 2017	148,600	330,217	478,817
December 2017	153,747	345,642	499,389
January 2018	157,124	355,615	512,739
February 2018	155,208	349,999	505,207
March 2018	153,083	347,281	500,364
April 2018	149,276	341,290	490,566
May 2018	146,495	337,567	484,062
June 2018	146,049	337,064	483,113
July 2018	144,339	338,105	482,444
Variation June 2018 - July 2018			
Number	-1,710	1,041	-669
Per cent	-1.2	0.3	-0.1

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State

State	June 2018	July 2018	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	37,190	37,064	-126	-0.3
Victoria	30,954	30,610	-344	-1.1
Queensland	37,288	36,459	-829	-2.2
South Australia	11,174	11,016	-158	-1.4
Western Australia	20,766	20,583	-183	-0.9
Tasmania	3,691	3,686	-5	-0.1
Northern Territory	3,599	3,542	-57	-1.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,387	1,379	-8	-0.6
Australia	146,049	144,339	-1,710	-1.2
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	87,413	87,968	555	0.6
Victoria	69,356	69,387	31	0.0
Queensland	78,604	78,338	-266	-0.3
South Australia	28,708	28,997	289	1.0
Western Australia	48,346	48,703	357	0.7
Tasmania	11,932	11,944	12	0.1
Northern Territory	10,101	10,164	63	0.6
Australian Capital Territory	2,604	2,604	0	0.0
Australia	337,064	338,105	1,041	0.3
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	124,603	125,032	429	0.3
Victoria	100,310	99,997	-313	-0.3
Queensland	115,892	114,797	-1,095	-0.9
South Australia	39,882	40,013	131	0.3
Western Australia	69,112	69,286	174	0.3
Tasmania	15,623	15,630	7	0.0
Northern Territory	13,700	13,706	6	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	3,991	3,983	-8	-0.2
Australia	483,113	482,444	-669	-0.1

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Gender

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	1,583	1.8	585	0.3	2,168	0.8
18 - 20 years	9,877	10.9	11,834	6.9	21,711	8.3
21 - 24 years	12,704	14.1	22,320	13.0	35,024	13.4
25 - 29 years	13,528	15.0	22,479	13.1	36,007	13.8
30 - 39 years	20,463	22.7	37,519	21.9	57,982	22.2
40 - 49 years	15,796	17.5	34,886	20.4	50,682	19.4
50 - 59 years	11,190	12.4	27,273	15.9	38,463	14.7
60 years and over	5,111	5.7	14,315	8.4	19,426	7.4
Total	90,252	100.0	171,211	100.0	261,463	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,736	3.2	723	0.4	2,459	1.1
18 - 20 years	8,824	16.3	12,949	7.8	21,773	9.9
21 - 24 years	7,378	13.6	17,488	10.5	24,866	11.3
25 - 29 years	5,979	11.1	14,542	8.7	20,521	9.3
30 - 39 years	8,009	14.8	31,610	18.9	39,619	17.9
40 - 49 years	9,201	17.0	44,268	26.5	53,469	24.2
50 - 59 years	8,849	16.4	31,900	19.1	40,749	18.4
60 years and over	4,111	7.6	13,414	8.0	17,525	7.9
Total	54,087	100.0	166,894	100.0	220,981	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,319	2.3	1,308	0.4	4,627	1.0
18 - 20 years	18,701	13.0	24,783	7.3	43,484	9.0
21 - 24 years	20,082	13.9	39,808	11.8	59,890	12.4
25 - 29 years	19,507	13.5	37,021	10.9	56,528	11.7
30 - 39 years	28,472	19.7	69,129	20.4	97,601	20.2
40 - 49 years	24,997	17.3	79,154	23.4	104,151	21.6
50 - 59 years	20,039	13.9	59,173	17.5	79,212	16.4
60 years and over	9,222	6.4	27,729	8.2	36,951	7.7
Total	144,339	100.0	338,105	100.0	482,444	100.0

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

Table 7a – Australian Capital Territory Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3)

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,194	1,185	-0.8%
Cotter - Namadgi	57	57	0.0%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	68	65	-4.4%
Gungahlin	568	565	-0.5%
North Canberra	625	597	-4.5%
South Canberra	193	192	-0.5%
Tuggeranong	808	828	2.5%
Weston Creek	191	191	0.0%
Woden	276	290	5.1%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7b – New South Wales Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Var. %	State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,731	1,743	0.7%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,243	1,222	-1.7%
Armidale	1,132	1,130	-0.2%	Liverpool	2,133	2,163	1.4%
Auburn	1,294	1,325	2.4%	Lord Howe Island	<5	<5	n/a
Bankstown	3,012	3,112	3.3%	Lower Hunter	2,475	2,417	-2.3%
Bathurst	912	904	-0.9%	Lower Murray	394	397	0.8%
Baulkham Hills	557	548	-1.6%	Maitland	1,673	1,648	-1.5%
Blacktown	2,333	2,347	0.6%	Manly	154	168	9.1%
Blacktown - North	762	754	-1.0%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	800	825	3.1%
Blue Mountains	938	937	-0.1%	Merrylands - Guildford	3,104	3,170	2.1%
Blue Mountains - South	0	0	0.0%	Moree - Narrabri	1,101	1,065	-3.3%
Botany	520	542	4.2%	Mount Druitt	2,982	2,986	0.1%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,463	1,431	-2.2%	Newcastle	3,846	3,794	-1.4%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,692	1,711	1.1%	Newcastle	3,846	3,794	-1.4%
Broken Hill and Far West	907	863	-4.9%	North Sydney - Mosman	317	317	0.0%
Camden	502	513	2.2%	Orange	1,155	1,143	-1.0%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,176	3,202	0.8%	Parramatta	1,638	1,616	-1.3%
Canada Bay	381	368	-3.4%	Pennant Hills - Epping	205	196	-4.4%
Canterbury	2,281	2,298	0.7%	Penrith	1,939	1,992	2.7%
Carlingford	719	706	-1.8%	Pittwater	214	215	0.5%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	411	414	0.7%	Port Macquarie	1,833	1,846	0.7%
Clarence Valley	1,389	1,375	-1.0%	Port Stephens	1,675	1,655	-1.2%
Coffs Harbour	2,353	2,361	0.3%	Queanbeyan	605	636	5.1%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	615	608	-1.1%	Richmond - Windsor	548	566	3.3%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,721	1,736	0.9%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,255	2,229	-1.2%
Dubbo	2,446	2,416	-1.2%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,622	2,634	0.5%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	112	125	11.6%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	171	162	-5.3%
Eastern Suburbs - North	555	596	7.4%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	769	762	-0.9%
Eastern Suburbs - South	957	1,029	7.5%	Shoalhaven	2,271	2,279	0.4%
Fairfield	5,431	5,548	2.2%	Snowy Mountains	406	390	-3.9%
Gosford	2,788	2,835	1.7%	South Coast	1,750	1,669	-4.6%
Goulburn - Yass	1,327	1,349	1.7%	Southern Highlands	371	374	0.8%
Great Lakes	838	845	0.8%	St Marys	1,182	1,169	-1.1%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	1,025	1,036	1.1%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,400	1,412	0.9%
Hawkesbury	197	209	6.1%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	559	546	-2.3%
Hornsby	517	503	-2.7%	Sydney Inner City	2,548	2,616	2.7%
Hurstville	1,331	1,342	0.8%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,619	2,677	2.2%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	<5	n/a	Taree - Gloucester	1,852	1,854	0.1%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,504	1,496	-0.5%	Tumut - Tumbarumba	335	338	0.9%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,718	1,751	1.9%	Tweed Valley	2,370	2,436	2.8%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,388	1,397	0.6%	Upper Hunter	793	777	-2.0%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,222	1,197	-2.0%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	894	878	-1.8%
Ku-ring-gai	268	261	-2.6%	Wagga Wagga	2,034	2,014	-1.0%
Lachlan Valley	1,660	1,634	-1.6%	Warringah	708	715	1.0%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,110	2,087	-1.1%	Wollondilly	404	386	-4.5%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,529	1,520	-0.6%	Wollongong	2,028	1,993	-1.7%
Leichhardt	461	481	4.3%	Wyong	3,898	3,953	1.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7c – Northern Territory Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,526	3,488	-1.1%
Barkly	778	806	3.6%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,724	2,700	-0.9%
Darwin City	549	564	2.7%
Darwin Suburbs	1,221	1,233	1.0%
East Arnhem	1,651	1,630	-1.3%
Katherine	2,075	2,112	1.8%
Litchfield	412	408	-1.0%
Palmerston	764	800	4.7%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7d – Queensland Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Var. %	State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	435	432	-0.7%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,683	1,710	1.6%
Beaudesert	431	435	0.9%	Ipswich Inner	3,312	3,369	1.7%
Beenleigh	1,390	1,411	1.5%	Jimboomba	863	877	1.6%
Bowen Basin - North	668	642	-3.9%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	270	272	0.7%
Bribie - Beachmere	770	807	4.8%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,390	1,385	-0.4%
Brisbane Inner	1,615	1,631	1.0%	Mackay	3,004	2,886	-3.9%
Brisbane Inner - East	554	526	-5.1%	Maroochy	1,332	1,293	-2.9%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,221	1,224	0.2%	Maryborough	1,831	1,808	-1.3%
Brisbane Inner - West	612	638	4.2%	Mt Gravatt	1,057	1,068	1.0%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	1,005	985	-2.0%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	465	461	-0.9%
Browns Plains	2,368	2,311	-2.4%	Nambour - Pomona	1,514	1,513	-0.1%
Buderim	858	838	-2.3%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,508	1,493	-1.0%
Bundaberg	3,495	3,325	-4.9%	Nathan	710	689	-3.0%
Burnett	1,953	1,894	-3.0%	Nerang	1,432	1,407	-1.7%
Caboolture	2,530	2,550	0.8%	Noosa	584	592	1.4%
Caboolture Hinterland	245	256	4.5%	North Lakes	1,453	1,429	-1.7%
Cairns - North	960	928	-3.3%	Nundah	665	701	5.4%
Cairns - South	4,561	4,497	-1.4%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,227	2,192	-1.6%
Caloundra	1,577	1,534	-2.7%	Outback - North	1,524	1,467	-3.7%
Capalaba	1,047	1,034	-1.2%	Outback - South	502	500	-0.4%
Carindale	540	556	3.0%	Port Douglas - Daintree	439	438	-0.2%
Centenary	259	248	-4.2%	Redcliffe	1,628	1,641	0.8%
Central Highlands (Qld)	808	778	-3.7%	Robina	800	782	-2.3%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,631	1,577	-3.3%	Rockhampton	4,013	4,019	0.1%
Chermside	1,268	1,288	1.6%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,080	1,065	-1.4%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,329	1,294	-2.6%	Sandgate	1,107	1,116	0.8%
Coolangatta	1,079	1,078	-0.1%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	456	446	-2.2%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,057	1,070	1.2%	Southport	1,601	1,600	-0.1%
Darling Downs - East	962	952	-1.0%	Springfield - Redbank	2,196	2,247	2.3%
Far North	2,817	2,721	-3.4%	Springwood - Kingston	3,069	3,058	-0.4%
Forest Lake - Oxley	2,141	2,109	-1.5%	Strathpine	933	927	-0.6%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,717	2,702	-0.6%	Sunnybank	879	863	-1.8%
Gold Coast - North	1,686	1,659	-1.6%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	1,110	1,078	-2.9%
Gold Coast Hinterland	276	282	2.2%	Surfers Paradise	846	824	-2.6%
Granite Belt	939	937	-0.2%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,607	1,542	-4.0%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,647	1,605	-2.6%	The Gap - Enoggera	664	637	-4.1%
Hervey Bay	2,149	2,107	-2.0%	Toowoomba	3,099	3,109	0.3%
Hills District	679	668	-1.6%	Townsville	6,053	6,017	-0.6%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,401	1,410	0.6%	Whitsunday	439	418	-4.8%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,742	1,735	-0.4%	Wynnum - Manly	1,038	1,044	0.6%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7e - South Australia Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	453	470	3.8%
Adelaide Hills	772	789	2.2%
Barossa	619	595	-3.9%
Burnside	287	309	7.7%
Campbelltown (SA)	628	680	8.3%
Charles Sturt	2,207	2,228	1.0%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,307	2,311	0.2%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,051	1,075	2.3%
Gawler - Two Wells	761	733	-3.7%
Holdfast Bay	376	388	3.2%
Limestone Coast	1,487	1,484	-0.2%
Lower North	621	622	0.2%
Marion	1,573	1,564	-0.6%
Mid North	1,171	1,195	2.0%
Mitcham	645	642	-0.5%
Murray and Mallee	2,431	2,412	-0.8%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	446	459	2.9%
Onkaparinga	4,216	4,301	2.0%
Outback - North and East	1,582	1,567	-0.9%
Playford	4,429	4,387	-0.9%
Port Adelaide - East	1,689	1,691	0.1%
Port Adelaide - West	1,799	1,764	-1.9%
Prospect - Walkerville	325	333	2.5%
Salisbury	4,458	4,436	-0.5%
Tea Tree Gully	1,318	1,318	0.0%
Unley	340	361	6.2%
West Torrens	1,007	997	-1.0%
Yorke Peninsula	774	772	-0.3%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7f - Tasmania Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	776	773	-0.4%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,428	1,449	1.5%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	360	360	0.0%
Devonport	1,307	1,282	-1.9%
Hobart - North East	1,208	1,202	-0.5%
Hobart - North West	2,250	2,263	0.6%
Hobart - South and West	522	520	-0.4%
Hobart Inner	1,026	997	-2.8%
Huon - Bruny Island	580	562	-3.1%
Launceston	3,030	3,010	-0.7%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	556	569	2.3%
North East	1,394	1,435	2.9%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	398	397	-0.3%
South East Coast	187	187	0.0%
West Coast	585	612	4.6%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7g – Victoria Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Var. %	State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	3,011	2,953	-1.9%	Manningham - East	143	141	-1.4%
Banyule	1,301	1,264	-2.8%	Manningham - West	649	655	0.9%
Barwon - West	228	227	-0.4%	Maribyrnong	2,022	1,992	-1.5%
Baw Baw	954	923	-3.2%	Maroondah	1,287	1,291	0.3%
Bayside	568	577	1.6%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	832	836	0.5%
Bendigo	2,684	2,615	-2.6%	Melbourne City	1,728	1,691	-2.1%
Boroondara	800	801	0.1%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	3,029	3,024	-0.2%
Brimbank	5,537	5,513	-0.4%	Mildura	1,832	1,752	-4.4%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,584	1,542	-2.7%	Moira	670	677	1.0%
Campaspe	853	841	-1.4%	Monash	1,259	1,271	1.0%
Cardinia	1,314	1,309	-0.4%	Moreland - North	1,404	1,388	-1.1%
Casey - North	1,858	1,799	-3.2%	Mornington Peninsula	1,889	1,950	3.2%
Casey - South	2,705	2,649	-2.1%	Murray River - Swan Hill	916	943	2.9%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	599	591	-1.3%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	445	438	-1.6%
Dandenong	3,476	3,541	1.9%	Port Phillip	1,460	1,422	-2.6%
Darebin - North	1,933	1,963	1.6%	Shepparton	1,691	1,764	4.3%
Darebin - South	746	722	-3.2%	Stonnington - East	209	207	-1.0%
Essendon	1,020	1,030	1.0%	Stonnington - West	585	572	-2.2%
Frankston	2,589	2,529	-2.3%	Sunbury	572	574	0.3%
Geelong	4,230	4,261	0.7%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	862	900	4.4%
Gippsland - East	1,625	1,601	-1.5%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,617	4,678	1.3%
Gippsland - South West	1,163	1,175	1.0%	Upper Goulburn Valley	1,027	1,017	-1.0%
Glen Eira	1,164	1,151	-1.1%	Wangaratta - Benalla	946	923	-2.4%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	818	826	1.0%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,642	1,697	3.3%
Grampians	1,293	1,307	1.1%	Wellington	1,174	1,172	-0.2%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	882	881	-0.1%	Whitehorse - East	472	468	-0.8%
Hobsons Bay	1,214	1,253	3.2%	Whitehorse - West	785	786	0.1%
Keilor	659	630	-4.4%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,455	3,449	-0.2%
Kingston	1,279	1,276	-0.2%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,580	1,562	-1.1%
Knox	1,648	1,700	3.2%	Wyndham	4,326	4,384	1.3%
Latrobe Valley	3,112	3,025	-2.8%	Yarra	1,605	1,552	-3.3%
Loddon - Elmore	295	300	1.7%	Yarra Ranges	1,709	1,708	-0.1%
Macedon Ranges	254	246	-3.1%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7h - Western Australia Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,625	1,618	-0.4%
Armadale	2,964	2,985	0.7%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,215	1,214	-0.1%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,259	2,318	2.6%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,192	2,171	-1.0%
Bunbury	3,301	3,321	0.6%
Canning	2,040	2,087	2.3%
Cockburn	2,503	2,553	2.0%
Cottesloe - Claremont	426	419	-1.6%
Esperance	349	324	-7.2%
Fremantle	1,057	1,075	1.7%
Gascoyne	511	507	-0.8%
Goldfields	1,544	1,526	-1.2%
Gosnells	3,929	3,987	1.5%
Joondalup	2,500	2,490	-0.4%
Kalamunda	1,107	1,138	2.8%
Kimberley	2,984	2,957	-0.9%
Kwinana	1,635	1,614	-1.3%
Mandurah	3,581	3,620	1.1%
Manjimup	712	728	2.2%
Melville	1,206	1,198	-0.7%
Mid West	2,776	2,729	-1.7%
Mundaring	1,007	1,033	2.6%
Perth City	2,216	2,211	-0.2%
Pilbara	1,633	1,572	-3.7%
Rockingham	3,916	3,892	-0.6%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	513	522	1.8%
South Perth	720	694	-3.6%
Stirling	4,981	4,948	-0.7%
Swan	3,962	4,061	2.5%
Wanneroo	5,345	5,424	1.5%
Wheat Belt - North	1,752	1,687	-3.7%
Wheat Belt - South	548	553	0.9%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7i - Other Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	June 2018	July 2018	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	15	14	-6.7%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<5	<5	n/a
Jervis Bay	14	13	-7.1%
Not recorded	530	578	9.1%

Notes:

SA3 data is derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS 2011) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Note: Individuals who live overseas, individuals who are without a valid home address and individuals who only have a postal address cannot be assigned to a locational boundary. These numbers may be represented as 'Not Recorded'. State/territory totals derived from SA3 data will not match state and territory totals reported elsewhere in this publication, due to different statistical geography methodologies.

Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.

In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 5 for specific Statistical Areas are reported as "<5" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".

Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 20 July 2018

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	86.7	82.4	83.9
Earned an income	13.3	17.6	16.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1	1.3	1.2
\$104 - <\$254	2.4	3.2	3
\$254+	9.9	13	12
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	75,818	151,551	227,369
Females			
Did not earn an income	76	69.8	71.2
Earned an income	24	30.2	28.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.5	1.5	1.5
\$104 - <\$254	3.7	3.9	3.9
\$254+	18.8	24.8	23.5
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	41,800	147,255	189,055
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.9	76.2	78.1
Earned an income	17.1	23.8	21.9
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.2	1.4	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	2.9	3.6	3.4
\$254+	13.1	18.8	17.2
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	117,618	298,806	416,424

Note:
 - Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
 - The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables. Table 8 is based on the population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 20 July 2018

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term YA(o) job seekers %	Long-term YA(o) job seekers %	Total YA(o) job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	87.7	84.4	85.8
Earned an income	12.3	15.6	14.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.7	1.9	1.8
\$143 - <\$250	2.3	2.1	2.2
\$250+	8.3	11.6	10.1
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	13,459	17,512	30,971
Females			
Did not earn an income	78.9	75.6	76.9
Earned an income	21.1	24.4	23.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3.2	2.7	2.9
\$143 - <\$250	3.7	3.6	3.6
\$250+	14.2	18.1	16.6
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	11,842	18,332	30,174
Persons			
Did not earn an income	83.6	79.9	81.4
Earned an income	16.4	20.1	18.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.4	2.3	2.4
\$143 - <\$250	2.9	2.8	2.9
\$250+	11.1	14.9	13.3
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	25,301	35,844	61,145

Note:
 - Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
 - The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables. Table 8 is based on the population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on DSS labour market and related payments delivered by DHS. These Explanatory Notes provide details of the scope and methodology of the publication, as well as the policy changes which have affected the data since the publication was introduced in December 1995 by the then Department of Social Security.

Prior to December 1995, this publication was titled the *Monthly Job Search and Newstart Allowance Statistics*.

Scope

The primary focus of the publication is to provide information on unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance, with a particular focus on the total number of job seekers. The numbers of people on Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

Methodology

Data in this publication relate to the average number of people who are both eligible (e.g. meet 'unemployed' qualification) and entitled (e.g. meet income and assets criteria) to receive a payment calculated over a reference month. Averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.

Table 1 provides information on the total number of unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance. The Youth Allowance population is split into Youth Allowance (full-time students), Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. Numbers of people on Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also provided.

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of the Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) populations and show the derivation of the respective job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the Comparability of Data section of these Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers. Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker population.

The Statistical Areas Level 3 reported in Table 7 are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

The earnings data in Table 8 (a and b) is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables in the publication. Table 8 is based on the population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

Payment History

Youth Allowance

The maximum age for Youth Allowance (other) was increased for new claimants from 20 to 21 years of age from 1 July 2012 and the income free area was increased to \$143.

From 1 January 2016, to receive Youth Allowance (other) young people without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification (Certificate III) will need to participate in :

- approved full-time study, or
- a combination of 25 hours a week of approved part-time study and part-time work , or
- other approved activities of 25* hours per week, in addition to up to 20 job searches each month (noting that it is * 15 hours a week for early school leavers with a partial capacity to work or who are principal carer parents and have part-time requirements)

until they attain Year 12 or equivalent, or a Certificate III, or turn 22 years of age.

Earn or learn arrangements were phased in, applying from 1 July 2009 to all new recipients of Youth Allowance and from 1 July 2010 for all job seekers in receipt of Youth Allowance prior to 1 July 2009.

From 1 July 1998 Youth Allowance was introduced to provide income support to young people, including students, those looking for work, and those who are sick. Youth allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, e.g. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. The Youth Allowance replaced:

- AUSTUDY for 16-24 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Youth Training Allowance for 16-17 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Sickness Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds); and
- More-than-minimum rate Family Payment for secondary students aged 16-18 not getting AUSTUDY.

Special provisions applied for 18 to 20 year olds who were already on Newstart or Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance, and who remained on payment when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998. This group were able to remain on their existing payment and retain their existing benefits.

Youth Allowance had a significant downward effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from July 1998 and total job seeker numbers due to the parental means test.

Newstart Allowance

On 1 January 2013, grandfathering provisions ceased for Parenting Payment recipients who had been receiving payment prior to 1 July 2006 and had a youngest child aged 6+ years (partnered recipients) or 8+ years (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees, as previously grandfathered Parenting Payment recipients who were eligible transferred to Newstart Allowance.

On 1 July 2012, the qualification age for Newstart Allowance was increased for new claimants from 21 to 22 years of age.

From 1 July 1998, Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance. Young people aged 18 to 20 years old who were on Newstart or

Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance and when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998, were able to remain on Newstart Allowance.

From 20 October 1996, Job Search Allowance and Newstart Allowance were combined into one payment - Newstart Allowance - which was payable to eligible recipients aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see Job Search Allowance).

Prior to 20 October 1996, Newstart Allowance was payable to eligible persons over 18 years who had been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) for 12 months or more.

Job Search Allowance

From 20 October 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance (see *Newstart Allowance*). All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.

Sickness Allowance

From 17 March 1996, persons in receipt of Newstart Allowance or Youth Training Allowance who became temporarily incapacitated no longer transferred to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. This change had the effect of increasing total Newstart Allowance/Youth Training Allowance figures but did not affect job seeker figures as those recipients who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training job seeker populations.

Under current arrangements, these recipients remain on their existing payments but are exempt from the activity test for the duration of their medical certificates. People who become unemployed because of illness, and those who suffer a potential loss of income due to sickness, are paid Newstart Allowance because they are unemployed.

Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance, which was introduced on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Partner Allowance

From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

From 1 July 1995 Partner Allowance has only been granted to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Other dependent partners have to qualify for an income support payment in their own right, such as Newstart Allowance. Partner Allowance was introduced in October 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

Youth Training Allowance

Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Widow Allowance

From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

Widow Allowance, introduced on 1 January 1995, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years (50 prior to 20 March 1997), if they meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status and recent work experience.

Mature Age Allowance

From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. The payment ceased by October 2008.

Mature Age Allowance was introduced on 24 March 1994, and was paid to long-term unemployed persons aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who had been receiving income support for 9 months or more and who were eligible for Newstart Allowance. The introduction of Mature Age Allowance had a downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from April 1994 until October 2003.

Comparability of Data

There have been significant changes to the data presented in this publication due to a number of events. The main changes are:

- the method of counting recipients;
- the inclusion of some CDEP recipients in the total recipient numbers;
- the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998;
- the way 'job seeker' is defined;
- the way duration is calculated;
- the eligibility for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) from July 2012;
- the cessation of grandfathered Parenting Payment provisions, which saw an increase in the number of Newstart recipients in January 2013; and
- the introduction of *jobactive*, an employment services model with a stronger focus on job search, which replaced Job Services Australia on 1 July 2015.

People using this data to construct time series should note the following comments.

Definition of Recipients

From July 2002, the number of people receiving labour market and related payments reports recipients who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment. These recipients are otherwise known as 'current' recipients.

Revised historical data (using this methodology) from May 1998 to June 2002 is in the July 2002 publication.

Due to improved data sources, data from July 2003 has slight differences from the recipient numbers used in previous editions.

Before July 2002, all recipients who received a payment within a given fortnight were counted. From mid 1998, recipients who received a ‘one-off’ payment were excluded. One-off payments can occur, for instance, when a normal payment is interrupted (e.g. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in CDEP started receiving CDEP participant supplement and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new recipients to those eligible for payments reported in this publication. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

Introduction of Youth Allowance

The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998, other than the inclusion of Sickness Allowees in the Youth Allowance (other) population.

There is greater comparability between total Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance job seekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) job seekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the job seeker total.

A pre and post July 1998 comparison will reflect the exclusion of some 18 to 20 year old unemployed people due to the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test (see the *Youth Allowance* section under Payment History).

Job seekers

From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report.

Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity and not as job seekers. Other people who were receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements were classified as job seekers although they may not always have been undertaking job search.

From July 1998, the definition of job seekers excludes all people who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner’s income, or where applicable, parental income, and those known not to be required to search for work.

Before July 1998, job seekers excluded allowees who did not receive a payment, allowees who were incapacitated, and allowees who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to search for work were classified as job seekers, including people undertaking full-time voluntary work, people on jury duty and pregnant women around the time of the birth of their child.

Duration

Duration refers to duration on income support and includes time spent on other income support payments.

Since May 1998, duration has been defined according to the time a recipient spends on income support - short-term recipients are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term recipients are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a recipient was registered as unemployed - short-term recipients were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term recipients were people who were registered for 12 months or more.

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

The term Area Support Office was replaced by Service Zone in July 2011.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

The CDEP program was administered by the Department of Social Services. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aimed to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there were two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assisted Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focused on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

Customer Service Centre

Customer Service Centre was replaced by the term Service Centre in July 2011.

Did not receive a payment

Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero paid'.

Fortnightly earnings

Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.

Incapacitated

A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.

Job seeker

A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.

Long-term recipients

Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 22 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Partner Allowance (PA)

From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

Partner Allowance was for dependent partners of pensioners and allowees. Partners had to be born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Partner Allowance had no job search requirement. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Service Centre

A DHS Service Centre that provides DSS and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

Service Zone

A set of Service Centres, grouped together for operational purposes on a geographic basis. Service Zones replaced Areas and Area Support Offices in July 2011. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

Short-term recipients

Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.

Statistical Areas Level 3

Statistical Areas Level 3 are derived using the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) of 2011, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). For further details, see the ABS website: [ABS Statistical Geography](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN) <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN>>

Widow Allowance (WA)

From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

Widow Allowance, a non-activity tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Youth Allowance (YA)

Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 21 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, e.g. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.

To receive Youth Allowance young people under 22 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

Youth Allowance (other)

Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

Comparisons Between DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Numbers And ABS Labour Force Unemployment Statistics

Official statistics

Official unemployment statistics are released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS uses definitions recommended by the International Labour Organization which have been accepted internationally as the most appropriate for the compilation of official statistics of unemployment.

ABS definition

The ABS unemployment statistics measure the number of persons who, for a particular reference period, did not undertake any paid work, were actively looking for work and were available to start work.

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

The labour market payment statistics give the number of persons who are both eligible and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other). The criteria for receipt of these payments do not match those the ABS uses to determine whether a person is classed as unemployed or employed for statistical purposes.

Differences

Care should be taken when comparing the ABS labour force and DSS labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.

Duration

Both DSS and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:

DSS measures duration of **income support**. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.

The ABS measures length of time **unemployed** using their unemployment definition.

DSS unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment and still be classified as long-term income support recipients:

- Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.

- Long-term recipients can have 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

For the ABS statistics, any hours of work for a period as short as two weeks count as a break from unemployment and so are enough to reset a person's unemployment duration.

The difference between these two concepts, together with the fact that DSS recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DSS as long-term recipients when they would be classified as short-term unemployed under the ABS definition.

Seasonal adjustment

The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The DSS labour market payment numbers data are not seasonally adjusted.

Classification

The ABS classifies a person as unemployed if he or she is aged 15 years and over, was not employed during the week before the interview, has actively looked for full-time or part-time work and is available to start work. From February 2004, people who had not actively looked for work because they were waiting to start a job within four weeks are also classified as unemployed.

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment aged over 15 years and under Age Pension age.

Employment

Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients may be employed part-time, but within an income test limit; the ABS classifies a person as "employed" if, among other things, he or she has worked for one hour or more during the survey period.

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

- DSS reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.
- ABS numbers are based on a sample survey which interviews occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.33% of the total Australian population. These persons are generally interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of each month and the information obtained relates to the week before the interview takes place.

Treatment of partners

The ABS series includes unemployed persons whose spouse is working, irrespective of income, whereas Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients are subject to an income and assets test for themselves and their spouse.

Pensioners

The ABS series includes persons being paid a pension but looking for work (e.g. sole parents in receipt of Parenting Payments looking for work).

Non job seekers

The overall Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series includes persons who are not required to undertake jobsearch. These persons are separately identified in Tables 2 and 3, and have then been excluded in subsequent tables. These people may be undertaking training, the development of self-employment opportunities, full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work which excludes them from jobsearch obligations. They may also be incapacitated or have another temporary exemption from jobsearch.

Waiting periods

The ABS series includes persons who are serving a waiting period before being granted Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other), or whose allowance was deferred.

Survey

The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the DSS statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).

See also: The Australian Bureau of Statistics release “6105.0 - Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2014 – [The unemployed and recipients of Government unemployment benefits - differences explained](#)”

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6105.0Feature%20Article54July%202014?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6105.0&issue=July%202014&num=&view=>
>

For More Information

Other recipient information

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government's centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au) (<http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services>). Historical data is available in a statistical overview available on the Department's website, [DSS - Statistical Paper Series](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series) (<<http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series>>).

Labour market information

Other statistics on recipients of labour market related payments are available on request.

In addition to Newstart and Youth Allowances, statistics are also available on Partner Allowance, Parenting Payment, Sickness Allowance, ABSTUDY and Widow Allowance.

For enquiries email:

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au